The black-eyed Susan is Maryland’s state flower and one of our most striking summer wildflowers, blooming in meadows and fields and along roadsides throughout the state. This plant is a member of the aster or daisy family, a large and highly evolved family of plants. The black-eyed Susan "flowers" are actually flower heads. Each individual "petal" is a ray flower and the chocolate center of the flower head contains many small disk flowers.

**Flower Heads:** Rays (8 - 21) are a strong, sunny, golden-yellow surrounding a brown cone of disk flowers. Flower heads 1 1/2 - 4" across, borne singly on a long bristly stalk.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, soft and very bristly - hairy, with smooth margins or an occasional stray tooth.